**Reduction in driage allowance of par-boiled rice**

J046. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have totally disallowed driage allowance, permissible earlier, on par-boiled rice;

(b) whether Government have also reduced driage allowance from two per cent to one per cent for manufacture of raw rice; and

(c) if so, the scientific reasons for taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The expert Committee on rice milling (Gokak Committee) appointed by Government of India, had not recommended any driage allowances for both raw an par-boiled rice as it had taken this factor into consideration while fixing the out-turn ratio of raw and par-boiled rice. The Committee observed that during par-boiling operations, irrespective of moisture content the paddy imbibes, water and the overall moisture content will increase to an extent of 28 to 35 percent. During drying operations, the same is reduced to milliable level of moisture content and the same is between 12 to 15 percent. In view of such change, there is no justillable reason for allowing any driage loss due to reduction in moisture content during storage for milling par-boiled paddy. However, considering that some driage in paddy takes place before the same is milled, a driage of two percent in raw rice was allowed in case of Punjab in 1998-99. The same has been reduced to one percent for all the States for Custom Milling of Paddy for production of raw rice as decided by the Government on 1st December, 1998.